**Internet Safety for Seniors** (Clipart)

The internet creates excellent opportunities for seniors to meet people, conduct business, plan travel, access records, stay in touch with friends and family, and support hobbies and entertainment interests. You can learn how to take advantage of the opportunities without falling prey to predators so you can have peace of mind when you go online.

Though many seniors are very computer savvy, many more are not. Often their computers are not properly secured. Even when you have installed security software, it is critical that you set up automatic updates,

turn on a [firewall](http://www.atg.wa.gov/InternetSafety/DefendingYourComputer.aspx#firewalls), use secure [passwords](http://www.atg.wa.gov/InternetSafety/DefendingYourComputer.aspx#passwords), and so on.

If you do not feel that you are able to set up your [computer’s security](http://www.atg.wa.gov/InternetSafety/DefendingYourComputer.aspx#wireless), it may be well worth hiring a computer technician from a reputable company to review your settings for security and fix any problems you may have. Make sure you have checked the company through the Better Business Bureau and that whoever comes to your home is fully licensed and bonded.

However, keep in mind that giving access to your computer may put your private information at risk. Because you may be anxious about using the computer you may be more likely to believe someone who claims that there is something ‘wrong’ on your computer and more willing to follow the instructions they give you to ‘fix’ it. Sometime scammers ask for remote access to your computer so they can help you.

Unless you trust someone such as a friend or family member to keep your best interests at heart and respect your privacy, do not give them access to your computer.

The second myth is that if you haven’t fallen for an Internet scam you won’t be the victim of an Internet crime. The truth is that you may never know what the Internet connection is (or even if there was one) in most crimes. For example, information found online may give a criminal the incentive and means to rob your home or steal your identity.

The third myth is that the information you post online will only be looked at by people who you know. Actually everything on the Internet is being copied and referenced – constantly. Even if you take your information off the Internet, a copy of it may still be there. Reduce exposure by removing [personally identifiable information](http://www.atg.wa.gov/InternetSafety/CommunicatingOnline.aspx#Sharingpersonal) from anything you or family members post online.

**Tips for seniors to stay safer online**

* Never trust a link sent to you by someone you don’t know. By clicking the link you may be taken to a site that may look like your bank or credit card company, but isn’t. One thing a criminal can’t fake is the actual Web site address of a company or bank. Instead of clicking a link in an e-mail, search for the Web address using a search engine to find the real one. Use that to ask the company about the message you received, or call using the number listed on your statements. Mark the real site as a favorite in your browser so that one click brings you there safely every time.
* Never trust an e-mail that asks for your personal or account information (called a [phishing](http://www.atg.wa.gov/InternetSafety/FraudOnline.aspx#Phishing_Scams) scam). These usually seem convincing (the shabby ones have spelling errors, but the high quality scams look impeccable). No bank or reputable company is going to send you an e-mail asking you to correct your information, validate your identity, re-enter your password, and so on.
* The smarter scams often contain text warning you against fraud. They do this because many people believe that an e-mail that warns them to be careful must be legitimate. That is not always true. This also extends to sites that claim they have protections in place for your privacy and security. Anybody can make these claims, but only certain sites protect you.
* Never respond – or even open an e-mail with a deal that is too good to be true unless it is from a company that you know well and expect to get these kinds of offers from them.  Scammers want you to react without taking time to think things through, so their e-mails frequently sound urgent, such as:
  + …“if we don’t hear by tomorrow your account will be closed” (and you’ll notice that the date of “tomorrow” never is listed).
  + …”this offer won’t last, order now to ensure”…
* Never believe that someone you don’t know is going to give you money.
* Do not believe a person from another country who just needs you to “help transfer funds” and they need your bank account number to do so. Such scammers promise to give you a huge amount of money for helping them out.  The result is an empty bank account.
* If you never entered a lottery, you did not win the lottery. Such scams ask you to provide your information and bank account number so they can transfer your [prize money](http://www.atg.wa.gov/InternetSafety/FraudOnline.aspx#Sweepstakes,_etc). Don’t. The result is an empty bank account.
* Don’t believe a really rich, famous person just wants to help you out… and that the celebrity also mysteriously needs your address, phone number, bank account information to do so. The result is an empty bank account. Guard your information well. It is better to be rude than to be ripped off, so demand validation, verification, and authentication before giving your information to anyone. If you still feel uneasy, say no or check further. <http://www.atg.wa.gov/InternetSafety/Seniors.aspx>

**Resources available at Mesa State College Library and our library partners**

**Trusted Online Resources:**

The FTC’s Identity Theft Site: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/>

Health Information: MEDLINEPlus (than National Library of Medicine’s consumer health website - <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hinfo.html>

National Institutes of Health – Senior website <http://nihseniorhealth.gov/>

**Find money-saving and safety tips on trusted sites (like):**

**http://www.aarp.org/technology/**

**(recent articles)**

**Eight Ways to Save Money on Printer Ink;**

**Study finds spam down, viruses up;**

**Practical tips for maintaining digital security at home; 10 most annoying smartphone habits; Device Overload (keeping up with online passwords)**

# C:\Documents and Settings\jaanelso\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\Y71GOEVK\MP900422339[1].jpg(Clipart)

Aggressive sales tactics on the Internet and their impact on American consumers [microform]   
United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.  
Washington : U.S. G.P.O. : For sale by the Supt. of Docs., U.S. G.P.O., 2010.

[Identity and privacy in the internet age [electronic resource] : 14th Nordic Conference on Secure It](http://www.millennium.marmot.org/search%7ES18?/XInternet&searchscope=18&SORT=D/XInternet&searchscope=18&SORT=D&extended=0&SUBKEY=Internet/1%2C25593%2C25593%2CB/frameset&FF=XInternet&searchscope=18&SORT=D&23%2C23%2C)   
Nordic Conference on Secure IT Systems (14th : 2009 : Oslo, Norway)  
Berlin ; New York : Springer, c2009. MSC Electronic Access

[Internet fraud [electronic resource] : how to avoid internet investment scams / U.S. Securities and](http://www.millennium.marmot.org/search%7ES18?/XInternet&searchscope=18&SORT=D/XInternet&searchscope=18&SORT=D&extended=0&SUBKEY=Internet/51%2C25593%2C25593%2CB/frameset&FF=XInternet&searchscope=18&SORT=D&74%2C74%2C)   
[Washington, D.C.] : U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, [2007]

**Materials at other libraries in our consortium:**

[Internet safety / Hayley Mitchell Haugen and Susan Musser, book editors.](http://www.millennium.marmot.org/search%7ES93?/YInternet+safety&searchscope=93&SORT=D/YInternet+safety&searchscope=93&SORT=D&SUBKEY=Internet%20safety/1%2C1047%2C1047%2CB/frameset&FF=YInternet+safety&searchscope=93&SORT=D&2%2C2%2C) Detroit : Greenhaven Press, c2008. 120 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm. [302.231 I61](http://www.millennium.marmot.org/search%7ES93?/e302.231+I61/e302.231+i61++/-3,-1,,B/browse)  MCPLD Central Non-Fiction

[Safety net : protecting your business on the Internet / Kathleen Sindell.](http://www.millennium.marmot.org/search%7ES93?/YInternet+safety&searchscope=93&SORT=D/YInternet+safety&searchscope=93&SORT=D&SUBKEY=Internet%20safety/51%2C1047%2C1047%2CB/frameset&FF=YInternet+safety&searchscope=93&SORT=D&62%2C62%2C)   
New York : Chichester : Wiley, 2002. ASC Nielsen Library C384

[Know the facts about personal safety / Judith Anderson.](http://www.millennium.marmot.org/search%7ES93?/YInternet+safety&searchscope=93&SORT=D/YInternet+safety&searchscope=93&SORT=D&SUBKEY=Internet%20safety/51%2C1047%2C1047%2CB/frameset&FF=YInternet+safety&searchscope=93&SORT=D&68%2C68%2C) (Cell phones -- Keep it private! -- **Internet** friends)  
New York, NY : Rosen Central, 2010. GCP Glenwd New Books C590

Contact the reference desk if you would like more information about using our

(Clipart)